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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am a financial planner. I have watched the economy go into a tailspin because of the lawsuit brought against Microsoft. This lawsuit put fear throughout not only the tech industry, but also the entire economy itself. We now hear Congress constantly talking about ways to bring the economy back, yet hamstringing the one company that is the major engine of our economy - Microsoft. Microsoft has been charged with an antitrust suit, the basis of which is abuse of the consumer. Yet, Bill Gates has done nothing more than help the consumer with the innovations he has created. There is a standardization now of computer software where there was none before. More people can use and understand computer programs than before. Prices are lower. Microsoft has contributed so much to our technological expertise; the fact that the company is now being charged with this lawsuit is ridiculous.

Further, I am appalled that the legal system should be brought into what is basically a battle between technological companies. First, what do lawyers know about the computer industry? And how can these self-same people make decisions affecting the use of it? This whole process was a result of Microsoft rivals trying to rein Microsoft in through the legal system; however, the legal system is not just, just legal, influenced more by politics than any real concern over questionable business practices.

Microsoft has agreed to many terms demanded by the Department of Justice that go far beyond the original suit. Microsoft has agreed to design future versions of Windows with a device to make it easier to promote non-Microsoft software; Microsoft has agreed to open up to third party developers more of its copyrighted code to aid in development of third party programs; Microsoft has agreed to a technical committee to oversee compliance. This is more than a lot of companies would do.

I urge you to give your approval to this agreement and allow us to move on.

Sincerely,


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